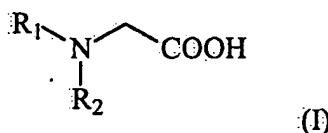


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry, which treatment comprises orally administering at least one glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring;

wherein the method is selected from the group consisting of a method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry and a method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry.

2. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or and mixtures or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

6. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, ~~preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40~~ kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, and ~~preferably higher than 60 g/day~~.

7. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, ~~preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed~~.

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

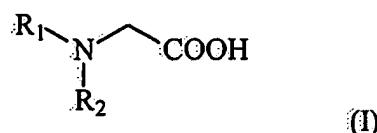
15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (canceled).

18. (canceled).

19. (withdrawn-currently amended): A method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry, comprising orally administering a glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

20. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or and mixture or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.

21. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

22. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

23. (withdrawn): The method according to claim 19, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

24. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed.

25. (withdrawn-currently amended): The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to said poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, ~~preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40~~ kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, ~~and preferably higher than 60 g/day~~.

26. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry.

27. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, and mixtures or salts thereof.

28. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

29. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

30. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

31. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day.

32. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed.

33. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

34. (new): The method according to claim 19, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

35. (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.